

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0208

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SUB-GROUP ON TACTICAL AIR (SGTA)

REF: A. STATE 247736/1

B. AC/276(SGTA)-N/31

1. TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING DIVERGENT VIEWS EXPRESSED AT LAST MEETING OF MBFR SUB-GROUP ON TACTICAL AIR (SGTA) AND TO ASSURE NO MISUNDERSTANDING, US REP, DRAWING ON GUIDANCE IN REF A, GAVE CHAIRMAN A FOLLOW-UP MEMO EXPLAINING US POSITION. CHAIRMAN HAS NOT INCLUDED PORTIONS OF OUR MEMO IN TEXT OF REF B (POUCHED) AND, IN ADDITION, GAVE US A MEMO OUTLINING HIS APPROACH TO RESOLVING PROBLEM AND INCORPORATING EXCURSIONS AGREED IN AC/276(SGTA)-N/29 IN THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE AIR CAMPAIGN. CHAIRMAN WOULD KEEP THE BASE CASE AIR CAMPAIGN AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED BUT WOULD AGGREGATE SOME OF THE RESULTS IN THE EXCURSIONS PART OF THE REPORT.

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2. SUBSTANCE OF CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL FOLLOWS: "THE IMS MBFR TEAM WELCOME THE US AGREEMENT TO EXAMINE, AS EXCURSIONS, THE FOUR SPECIFIC CASES DEFINED IN PARA 2(A) OF AC/276(SGTA)-N/29 AND THE TWO BASE CASE VARIATIONS TO WHICH REDUCTION OPTIONS

WILL BE APPLIED AS DEFINED IN ANNEX A TO AC/276(SGTA)-N/27. THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT THE US WILL AGREE THAT CERTAIN OF THESE (NOTABLY THE SUBJECTION OF UK TO WP ATTACK AND THE USE OF FISHBED A/C) SHOULD BE ANALYZED IN COMBINATION. SUBJECT TO THAT CONFIRMATION, WHICH THEY REGARD AS THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO REASSURE SHAPE AND CERTAIN NATIONAL AUTHORITIES THAT THEIR RESERVATIONS AND CONCERNS ARE BEING TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT, THE IMS MBFR TEAM BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE OR NO DIFFERENCE IN SUBSTANCE BETWEEN THEIR APPROACH AND THE US APPROACH. THEY BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE PRACTICABLE TO PRESENT THE FINDINGS IN A WAY SATISFACTORY TO ALL, BY FOCUSING (AS THE US WISHES) ON THE BASE CASE IN N/18 AND EXPRESSING AND EXPLAINING THE EFFECTS OF THE IMPORTANT EXCURSIONS. THE MBFR TEAM THEMSELVES WOULD NOT PROPOSE IN SUCH A PRESENTATION TO EXPRESS A JUDGEMENT ON, NOR PREFERENCE FOR, ANY COMBINATION OF THE BASE CASE AND EXCURSIONS: THEY WOULD LEAVE IT TO THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TO REACH-AND EXPRESS-THEIR INDIVIDUAL CONCLUSIONS."

COMMENT: DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSION, CHAIRMAN CLARIFIED THE EXCURSION COMBINATIONS AS UK SANCTUARY, FISHBED AIRCRAFT IN SECONDARY ROLE, AND ATTACK AIRCRAFT IN HUNGARY. US REP INFORMED CHAIRMAN THAT THE US MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AGREE WITH THESE PROPOSED COMBINATIONS. SGTA STAFF GROUP (IMS) IS AMENABLE TO SOME ADJUSTMENT OF THE AIRCRAFT SHELTER EXCURSION INCLUDED IN N/29 BUT IS NOT READY TO EXTEND THE COMPUTER RUN FOR THIS EXCURSION BEYOND THE AGREEMENT IN N/29. IF WASHINGTON COULD AGREE TO SOME AGGREGATION OF EXCURSIONS, THIS WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD SOLVING PROBLEM.

3. REQUEST WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON AC/276(SGTA)-N/31 AND GUIDANCE ON SGTA CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL.
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